



Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

Montana Pupil Transportation News and Updates October/November 2003



Maxine Mougeot, Director of Pupil Transportation
Phone 406-444-3096
Fax 406-444-0509
mmougeot@state.mt.us

A Monthly Newsletter Published by Pupil Transportation, School Finance Division

Since You Asked

What is the speed limit for the bus that my child is riding to and from school and school related activities?



Always Safe & Prudent

Interstate	CARS		TRUCKS	
	Day	Night	Day	Night
Rural	75	75	65	65
Urban	65	65	65	65
Secondary	70	65	60	55
Us 93	65	65	60	55

- School buses must follow the speed limits set for cars and light trucks.
- School districts may establish speed limits for their school buses that are less than the state speed limits.
- School districts should contact their local Highway Patrol for assistance in setting district policy.

**Always remember school buses are carrying our state's most precious cargo including the bus driver.
Think Safety.**

I borrowed some training videos from you. The video is outdated and seems to be written for drivers with no experience. Can you get us some newer videos?

The Driver Training Video Library that we have available is exactly that, what we have available. Please keep in mind that there is no funding to build a video library that would meet the needs of every driver in the state. Opinions of the video that you just reviewed have been varied. Yes, it is an old tape, but the information is still valid and it works well for some drivers.

The purpose of the Driver Training Video Library is to supplement a training program that has been designed and

implemented by the school district to meet the needs of the drivers at that district in a cost effective and simplistic way.

The biggest difficulty that OPI has with the training library is the untimely return of tapes from the districts. We are trying to serve the entire state with a very limited number of tapes. Please order only what you plan to utilize right now. Mike Waterman is doing an excellent job of receiving, re-packaging and re-mailing the tapes. It only works well if no one abuses the system.

You can view a list of available tapes on the transportation web site at www.opi.state.mt.us/pupiltransport; choose *Video Training Library* from the *Hot New Items* menu. Order tapes from Mike Waterman at (406) 444-4524 or email him at mwaterman@state.mt.us.

How do you think the driver training is going at the district level?



As we put the pieces together for district driver training programs, I am impressed with the work that is going on around the state. A most amazing part is the number of trainers that have donated their time and expertise to the cause.

During the last year, I have attended trainings in Billings (Jerry Scott, Carbon Co. Superintendent), Joliet Public Schools (Les Cabot), Fromberg Public Schools (Renee Shanks), Townsend Public Schools (Buffy Woodring), Kalispell Public Schools (Pam Berry), Havre Public Schools (Ginger Zanto), Drummond Public Schools (Bob Sackman), Sidney Public Schools (Rick Verhasselt), Lewistown Public Schools (Shirley Barrick, Fergus Co Superintendent) and the MAPT Conference in Butte (Mel Rauch). The trainings have been well attended and the evaluations have been very positive. In addition, other trainings have been provided around the state. A hearty **THANKS** to each of you.

The trainings last from 1 hour to 9.5 hours to 3 days in length. District personnel and contractors are working equally hard to provide quality training with good speakers and new topics.

The intent of the Transportation Advisory Panel was to arm drivers with information that will allow them to find help as

soon as they need it, update driving skills and knowledge, receive new legislative information, build a bridge between transportation and special education, and especially to promote fellowship and mentoring.

Following is a list of trainers that are willing to come to your school to provide training in their field of expertise or to help districts find someone who will:

Rick Flink – Montana Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

Railroad Crossing Safety

(406) 862-6564 (Office)

(509) 990-5604 (Cell)

Richard.Flink@BNSF.com (Email)

Doug Kellie – Belgrade Public Schools

Student Management and Liability Issues

(406) 388-7217 (Bus Barn)

(406) 388-7217 (Fax)

Luke P. Avery – Laidlaw Transit, Inc.

Driver Development & Safety

(406) 556-8039 Ext. 203 (Phone)

(406) 556-8042 (Fax)

Roger Lunde – Harlow's Sales and Service

Driver Development & Safety

(406) 285-3867 (Phone)

(406) 581-3881 (Cell)

nodak1948@aol.com

Jack Welch – Billings Truck Center

Air Brakes Inspection and Training

(406) 248-4106 (Phone)

(406) 861-1959 (Cell)

TR Lane – Lane & Associates

Drug & Alcohol Testing

(406) 682-7718 (Phone)

(406) 682-7712 (Fax)

(406) 579-2751 (Cell)

TRLane@3rivers.net

Matt Schultz – Hamilton Public Schools

School Bus Evacuations

(406) 363-6177 (Phone & Fax)

schultzm@hsd3.org

Marilyn Pearson - Office of Public Instruction

Special Education – Federal & State Law, Sensitivity & Awareness, Funding Issues, Right to Know Issues and Marilyn can help with finding a speaker for training.

(406) 444-4428 (Phone)

(406) 444-3924 (Fax)

mpearson@state.mt.us

District County Health Departments and/or

Susan Court - Office of Public Instruction

(406) 444-3178 (Phone)

scourt@state.mt.us

Blood Borne Pathogens

Trainers for this program prefer to work with small groups of 30 or less. Concurrent classes might work well with this one.

Montana Department of Transportation local offices are always willing to provide training. They have informational presentations that include Winter Driving, Snow Plow Safety and Work Zone Safety.

The local Montana Highway Patrol office will send Patrolmen to visit with drivers about issues like school bus inspections, motorists running the reds, when to use the strobe lights and other issues that drivers are concerned about.

If you would like to see your name on this list of trainers, please contact me. We are looking for good trainers who might have additional training topics and ideas.

For questions or help to arrange training, please call Maxine at (406) 444-3096 or email at mmougeot@state.mt.us.

What were those Web Sites in a previous issue for Homeland Emergencies?

For additional information, please call Terry Teichrow, Coordinator for Disaster and Emergency Services for OPI. Terry's phone number is (406) 444-2036 and email is tteichrow@state.mt.us.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

www.dhs.gov

Ready Campaign

www.ready.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency

www.fema.gov

The American Red Cross

www.redcross.org



Quote of the month:

"The definition of happiness is the full use of your powers along lines of excellence."

by John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)

Transportation News

Bozeman Adult and Community Education will be offering classes for anyone who is eligible and wanting to earn a Commercial Drivers License (CDL). These classes are designed to help drivers pass the written portion of the CDL driving test. Luke Avery from LAIDLAW Transit in Bozeman will be the instructor. The classes begin on January 19, 2004 at the Wilson School in Bozeman.



Anyone who is wanting to design and implement CDL classes like this in their community please call Luke Avery (Driver Development and Safety Training) at (406) 556-8039 ext. 203. For more information regarding the Bozeman classes, please call Byrdeen Warwood, Bozeman Adult and Community Education Center at (406) 522-6012.

Montana's School Bus Fleet of the Year

School Bus Fleet Magazine announced the 2003 winners from across America in the October issue. Each year one school bus operation from each state is chosen to represent their state as **School Bus Fleet of the Year**.

Doug Kellie, the drivers and maintenance personnel from Belgrade Public Schools were chosen because they are living up to the high standard set by transportation personnel across the nation. Doug maintains that he would not have won the award if his drivers weren't as good as they are. "It takes an effort on everyone's part," Doug said, "and Belgrade's drivers and maintenance department are exceptional." About the only way to become a driver in Belgrade is wait until someone retires. Doug said that it is not unusual to have drivers with 25-plus years and he doesn't have the usual problems with recruiting and retaining drivers.

Doug goes the extra mile by providing training for drivers working in other school districts around the state. Doug says he will travel anywhere for a cup of Earl Grey tea and a really good home made cookie. Thanks a million Doug, for all your hard work. **Congratulations** to a great transportation team at Belgrade Public Schools.



The key to success is a combination of good leadership, teamwork and positive attitudes, Earl Grey tea and home made cookies.



National School Bus Standards Rewrite Sub-Committee

Congratulations to Matt Schultz, Transportation Director for Hamilton Public Schools, Larry Revier owner of Revier Transportation in Plains and Greg Beach of Beach Transportation in Missoula who were recently chosen to work on the National Standards Rewrite Committee. These men join current and past State Directors of Pupil Transportation from Montana, Washington and Arizona and will work together to analyze and rewrite the language for the *Transportation Other Than To And From School* section of the National Standards. Maxine Mougeot from OPI chairs the Operations Special Committee.

The Operations Special Committee met on November 11, 2003 in Salt Lake City during the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) Conference held at the Salt Palace November 9 – 13. Recognizing the difficulties caused by having laws that don't apply equally across private and public transportation, this committee was specially appointed by Don Carnahan, Operations Procedures Coordinator. The committee has several goals in mind.

One goal of the Operations Special Committee is to write strong national guidance that will enable school districts to write comprehensive policies and guidelines, including the delegation of the responsibility for this function to the supervisor of pupil transportation.

To provide safe and efficient activity transportation at the district level, lines of responsibility and authority need to be defined and personnel involved must have an understanding of their respective responsibilities.

The Operations Special Committee is required to complete its work by December 31st and submit the results to the Operations Procedures Coordinator for consideration.

If you have questions or suggestions, submit them in writing to Maxine at mmougeot@state.mt.us before December 15, 2003.



IMPORTANT DATES

December 2003 Pre-printed Second Semester TR-13 mailed to Districts

Individual Transportation Contracts and Daily Rates posted to Transportation Web Site

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pupiltransport/>

Bus Routes and Per Mile Rates posted to Transportation Web Site <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pupiltransport/>

January 15, 2003 First Semester TR-5s and TR-6s mailed to schools

January 31, 2003 Second Semester TR-13 due to OPI

January 31 – February 13, 2003 Maxine's Vacation

February 1, 2003 Two Signed Copies of TR-5 & TR-6 due to the County

February 15, 2003 TR-5s and TR-6s due to OPI

March 23, 2003 First Semester Trans. Reimbursement

June 23,24,25, 2004 MAPT Conference, Lewistown, MT
Contact Betty Kunkel at (406) 454-6776

Update driver certificates, bus inspection forms, route information and contracts regularly. Make sure that the right bus is on the right route and OPI knows if there is a change of buses.



